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At the Fourth International Congress of the International Surgical Association, held in New York beginning April 13, a strong plea for the lessening of the horrors of war was made by the President of the Congress, Dr. A. Depage, of Brussels. He said that the members of the Congress reserved their deepest admiration for "those who work to assure universal peace." The horrors of the modern battlefield after the shrapnel had done its deadly work were enlarged upon, and Dr. Depage declared that its use should be abolished as had that of explosive bullets. He said:

"Belgium asserts her pacific tendencies by her political neutrality and by her industries, which can only prosper in times of peace. Mighty America disposes otherwise; she favors the treaties by arbitration, which are the triumph of right over might; she organizes her universities and her scientific institutions, which assure more and more the victory of intellect over force and chance.

"The International Surgical Society in quitting the neutral soil of Belgium and in choosing New York as the seat of this meeting shows the high esteem in which it holds our American colleagues, and at the same time the confidence it feels in the final triumph of the ideas of peace and civilization that the United States personifies throughout the whole world.

"We surgeons necessarily represent by our profession itself a mute and constant protest against the evils of war by organizing help for the wounded and working during the periods of peace to anticipate all the horrors of the battlefield, so as to be ready and waiting with our help. We impress upon all that war is the greatest of scourges."

#### Church Peace Congress.

It has been arranged to hold a peace congress of the churches this summer, and it seems quite certain now that it will be held in Berne. The evangelical churches of Switzerland have sent out invitations for such a meeting, and a general response has been made to their appeal. The purpose of the congress is to crystallize the sentiment of the churches against war, to devise methods by which their influence may be brought to bear on the governments, and the like. The congress will be held under the auspices of the Church Peace Union, which will finance it; but it is really the outcome of a movement set on foot by the English and German church peace leagues some time before the Carnegie Church Foundation was established. Representatives of all religions, including those of Asia, have been invited to participate in the congress.

The Administration Bill to repeal the exemption clause in the Panama Canal Act was reported to the Senate on April 30 from the Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals, with this amendment:

"*Provided*, That neither the passage of this act nor anything therein contained shall be construed or held as waiving, impairing, or affecting any treaty or other rights possessed by the United States."

### Among the Peace Organizations.

The Secretary of the Minnesota Peace Society, W. D. R. MacLeod, reports the organization of a Section Society at St. Paul on March 29. The following officers were elected: President, Rev. C. W. Barnes; Vice-President, B. O. Adler; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Magdalen Kasmirski. At the meeting where the organization was accomplished Hon. S. G. Iverson presided and made a stimulating address. After the meeting the Executive Committee met, and planned for a public meeting to be held on April 10 in the City Hall, to be addressed by Norman Angell. Mr. Angell also spoke before the Current Topic and Commercial clubs of St. Paul on April 11.

Edwin D. Mead has spent two weeks in April in the Middle West, speaking many times in Ohio and Indiana and having most successful meetings. At the Ohio State University over a thousand students came out to hear him, and everywhere he was cordially received and was able to accomplish much good. In Cleveland he spoke under the auspices of the Cleveland Peace Society and to the students of Western Reserve University. At Chicago he held conferences with Mr. Beals, Mr. Lochner, and other leaders of the work there. At Indianapolis he met with the officers of the new Indiana Peace Society, and discussed with them the plans for their future campaign.

That the churches are gradually awakening to their duty and privilege to promote the cause of international peace is becoming more and more evident. The Buffalo Peace Society, for example, has a church committee to arouse the churches of that city to the importance of its work. At the annual meeting of the Associated Church Committees, held March 24, five of the nine denominations already associated with the society were well represented. Mrs. Frank F. Williams gave a report of the encouraging work done in the churches. The Buffalo society feels that its endeavor to enlist co-operation of the churches in the peace movement has been well worth while.

The Buffalo plan is that each church shall officially enroll itself as an associated member of the Peace and Arbitration Society of Buffalo, and that each church appoint a committee of five or more whose duty it is to work through the various church organizations in the interest of the peace movement. This is done by promoting the discussion of peace topics in the church clubs and societies; by keeping the church members informed of the progress of the peace movement in general; by helping in such other ways as may be suggested by the committees or by the Peace Society to secure throughout the world peace through justice founded on Christian principles.

From the report of the committee, signed, among others, by Mrs. Frank F. Williams and Frank S. Fosdick, we quote the following:

"Thirty churches are now enrolled, and our peace society has felt their great moral support and the splendid help of their appointed committees. A number of churches are still discussing the question of affiliation, and this very discussion is in itself of wonderful educational value. With the Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Unitarian, Methodist, Baptist, Church of the Disciples, Jewish, Universalist, and Christian Scientist churches having by action of their governing

bodies established the fact that there is no objection to their associating themselves with the peace society, our work can now progress more rapidly. We look forward to a city in which there will soon be a union of all the churches for peace. Shall we not make this an accomplished fact and a part of Buffalo's celebration of the hundred years of peace? Further, cannot this church plan be also the basis of a union for the churches of America? . . . In cities where there are no peace societies the church committees might meet together for mutual helpfulness, and that, in itself, would constitute a peace society. Thus we have a basis of a union of all communions, and also a peace society in all the cities of the country. This will be a great standing army of believers in practical Christianity, steadily educating its members to work for the abolition of war. . . . When the hour of need in our movement comes this organized public opinion will be such a powerful force that it will overcome all opposition and the united church lead in the establishment of a court of nations. Can there be a more glorious work for the churches of the world?"

The Buffalo Peace Society has been working to secure the celebration of the centenary of peace in their city along lines which shall be of lasting benefit to the general peace movement. A committee of one thousand has been named, embracing the most prominent citizens of Buffalo, and a pamphlet has been issued giving the names of the committee and presenting an argument for the right kind of a celebration. The title of the pamphlet is "Hunger by Taxation," a phrase quoted from Sir Edward Grey, who said that this was what threatened the world as a result of the enormous cost of battleships and armament.

The invitations for the Twentieth Annual Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration, to be held at Lake Mohonk, N. Y., May 27 to 29, have been issued by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Smiley. Three main topics of discussion have been arranged—the Third Hague Conference, the promotion of internationality, and treaties. Hon. John Bassett Moore is to be the presiding officer.

A new peace society has been organized during the past year at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., known as the International Peace Society.

Beginning with the April issue, the journal of the International Arbitration and Peace Association, *Concord*, appears in new and enlarged form. The services of Mr. George H. Perris have been secured as editor, and prominent men, such as John A. Hobson, F. W. Hirst, Prof. Gilbert Murray, Israel Zangwill, and others have promised to support him with contributions. The management of the association feels that there is need of a larger stream of continuous information, an ample platform for the discussion of the problems of international life, and the exchange of good counsel, and to this end they have undertaken the development and improvement of their monthly organ.

The Pacific Coast Director, Robert C. Root, is having many appointments to speak before women's clubs. Several of his lectures have been arranged by the chairman of the peace department of the federated women's clubs for the Los Angeles district. He reports securing a number of members for the society from these club meetings.

Miss Jane Addams and Mrs. Hiram W. Thomas have been chosen by the Chicago Peace Society to represent

the cause in the Congress of Woman's Achievements and Exposition of Science, Art, and Commerce, to be held in Chicago at the Coliseum, June 13 to 20.

The secretary of the Canadian Peace and Arbitration Society, Mr. S. W. Michener, of Lambton Mills, Ontario, made an earnest effort at the public-school section of the Ontario Educational Association, which met last month, to secure the passage of a motion to abolish military training. His motion was lost by a large majority, but he succeeded in arousing much discussion and thought on the subject. Mr. Michener said that he opposed military training because it inculcated the military spirit, made class distinctions, took time from school work, and did not develop those most in need of physical development. In supporting the motion, another teacher remarked that there was altogether too much military spirit in Canada already, and that the money that was being spent on amateur soldiery in the schools was needed for school equipment. In an editorial a leading Canadian journal remarks: "The tendency to make the schools a happy hunting-ground for military faddists is one that ought not to be encouraged. . . . As to the alleged influence of military training in helping school discipline, it would be well to have a large body of evidence. The notion that a boy's nature can be transformed by a few hours of military drill is a militarist superstition."

### Brief Peace Notes.

. . . The Dr. Thomas' World Peace Prize Contest, established by Mrs. Hiram W. Thomas in memory of her husband, was held the 24th of February at Alfred University, Alfred, N. Y., Mr. Aaron Conn taking the first prize on the "Ethics of Peace," and Mr. Robert Greene the second prize on the "Brotherhood of Man." There is a deep and growing interest in the subject among the student body, and the auditorium is always packed to the door on these occasions. One condition imposed is that each oration must appear in print in a local paper or magazine after the contest. This makes the message far-reaching among the friends of the contestants.

. . . On May 4 the Quinquennium of the International Council of Women was held at Rome. The Peace Department was well represented on the program, and strong resolutions were presented on the protection of women in time of war and on international mediation. Mrs. May Wright Sewall was in charge of the program and Mrs. Andrea Hofer-Proudfoot represented the Baroness Von Suttner.

. . . Mr. Theodore Marburg, former American Minister to Belgium, spoke in Rome in April before the Roman Commercial Association on "Improved International Relations," dwelling on the steady progress of the world toward a better understanding between the leading governments and peoples. His address was followed by one on international law by Prince di Cassano. Mr. Marburg was the founder and former President of the Maryland Society.

. . . Mrs. Lillian M. N. Stevens, president of the National Women's Christian Temperance Union, and a